Exports in million Rs. (US $)

Total	Granite Rough/ Cut Blocks	Polished and other processed Granite Include Tiles	Total
1991-92	2619.1	1142.0	3761.1
	(106.3)	(46.3)	(152.6)
1992-93	3392.4	1747.4	5039.8
	(113.5)	(60.3)	(173.8)
1993-94	4075.0	2621.9	6696.9
	(129.4)	(83.2)	(212.6)
1994-95	5097.0	3959.7	9056.7
	(161.8)	(125.7)	(287.5)
1995-96	5721.6	5105.5	10827.1
(Revised estimated)	(170.8)	(152.4)	(323.2)
April/Dec. '96	3996.6	4096.9	8093.5
(Estimated)	(113.9)	(116.7)	(230.6)

Source: CAPEXIL

Irregularities in the Export of Rice

2285. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints have been received by the Ministry about irregularities committed in the export of rice from 1993 onwards;

(b) if so, the details of each complaint alongwith the names of the firms connected with it; and

(c) the total profit/loss in these deeds as also the action taken against the concerned officers/firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) 14 complaints relating to export of sub-standard rice/delay in shipments/ nonshipment of consignments have been received in the Trade Disputes Cell since 1993. The names of the firms are as follows:—

1. M/s. Darak Trading Co., Bombay.

2. M/s. M.M. Exports (P) Ltd., New Delhi.

3. M/s. Eastern Electronics (P) Ltd., New Delhi.

4. M/s. Amritsar Rice Mills. Amritsar.

5. M/s. Associate Exports, Delhi.

6. M/s. Will Imports & Exports Ltd., New Delhi.

7. Railway Board, New Delhi.

8. (i) M/s. Jagdamba Rice Mills, Delhi.

(ii) M/s. Amira Trading, Delhi.

(iii) M/s. Amira Foods, Delhi.

(iv) M/s. L. T. Overseas, Delhi.

9. M/s. Paam Eatables, New Delhi.

10. M/s. Kundan Rice Mills, New Delhi.

11. M/s. Associate Exports, Bombay.

12. M/s. Shivnath Rai Harnaram (India) Co., New Delhi.

13. M/s. Tanna Trading Corpn., Bombay.

14. M/s. PKS Ltd., Calcutta.

(c) As per the Export-Import Policy, exports of Basmati and Non-Basmati (fine and superfine varieties) are permitted without quantity and price restriction. The exports are undertaken by the private traders. Data on profit/loss on transactions is not maintained by the Govt. The mechanism to deal with complaints through the Regional Standing Committees on Quality Complaints is as under :—

> "The complaints of foreign buyers alleging supply of sub-standard quality goods aginst Indian exporters received in the Cell are referred for investigation and settlement to Regional Standing Committees on Quality Complaints set up for the purpose at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, Delhi, Hyderabd, Kanpur, Ludhiana and Madras. If the disputes are settled to the satisfaction of foreign buyers through concilliation and/or if the Regional Committee after considering the facts of the case, decides that there is no fault on the part of Indian exporter/manufacturer and/or that the complaint is not genuine, the case is dropped. In cases where the committee fails to settle the dispute amicably and concilliation does not take place and the committee finds that the fault lies with the Indian exporters or that they are not cooperating, such cases are decided by the Committee to be dealt with under the penal and adjudication provisions of the FTDR Act/rules applicable and the cases are then referred for adjudication."

All the complaints have been subjected to the above procedure. 3 cases have been settled/closed, 2 cases are subjudice and 1 firm and their proprietor/directors have been debarred from receiving any export licences and/or making export of goods in any way for a period of two years w.e.f. 16.04.1996.

Minimum Export Price of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice

2286. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Minimum Export Price (MEP) of Basmati and non-Basmati rice during each of the last five years;

(b) the basis of fixation of such minimum export prices;

(c) whether the minimum export prices and per unit export realisation are in tune with the domestic prices of Basmati and non-Basmati rice during the last five years; and

(d) if so, what have been these prices and if not, the rationale for the export of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) It is the Policy of the Government to allow the exports of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise the national food security. The Minimum Export Prices (MEP) of rice had been fixed by the Govt. Keeping in view the domestic availability and prices, and the international demand and prices during the relevant period with the objective to maximise foreign exchange earnings. The MEPs fixed for Basmati and non-Basmati